

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01072 201747Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /090 W

-----201838Z 117893 /42

P R 201738Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9689

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS LONDON 01072

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, JANUARY 19-20

1. IN MEAGER COMMENT YESTERDAY, THE NEW BRITISH INITIATIVE IS SAID TO BE MUCH LIKE THE OLD ONE.

2. DAILY TELEGRAPH DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT: "THE NEW BRITISH PROPOSALS ON AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA, ANNOUNCED WITH A FLOURISH BY MR. CROSLAND ON MONDAY NIGHT, ARE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE IDEAS MR. IVOR RICHARD HAS BEEN DISCUSSING IN HIS TOUR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE CHIEF DISTINCTION IS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PUT DOWN

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PAGE 02 LONDON 01072 201747Z

ON PAPER, INSTEAD OF BEING OFFERED VERBALLY AS IDEAS WORTH TALKING ABOUT. THEY REMAIN "A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION" RATHER THAN A CUT-AND-DRIED PLAN."

3. SHIFTS IN STRATEGY WERE NOTED BY ONE CORRESPONDENT JANUARY 20.

4. GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG PATRICK LAURENCE: "SOME OBSERVERS IN SOUTH AFRICA HAVE NOTICED AN APPARENT ORCHESTRATION OF MOVES IN CAPE TOWN AND SALISBURY TO BOOST BISHOP MUZOREWA AS THE REAL LEADER OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE IN RHODESIA. COINCIDING WITH THE MOVES HAVE BEEN STATEMENTS UNDERMINING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS, MR. MUGABE AND MR. NKOMO.

ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE, THERE WERE REPORTS THAT "OFFICIAL CIRCLES" WERE INCREASINGLY IN FAVOR OF THE IDEA OF A REFERENDUM TO TEST AFRICAN OPINION, A MOVE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THE POPULAR BACKING ENJOYED BY THE BISHOP. ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE, THERE WAS THE AD-MISSION BY THE RHODESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. P. K. VAN DER BYL, THAT THE BISHOP PROBABLY HAD THE GREATEST FOLLOWING IN RHODESIA."

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009